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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



# Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

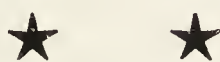
1953



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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



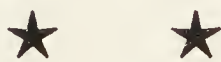
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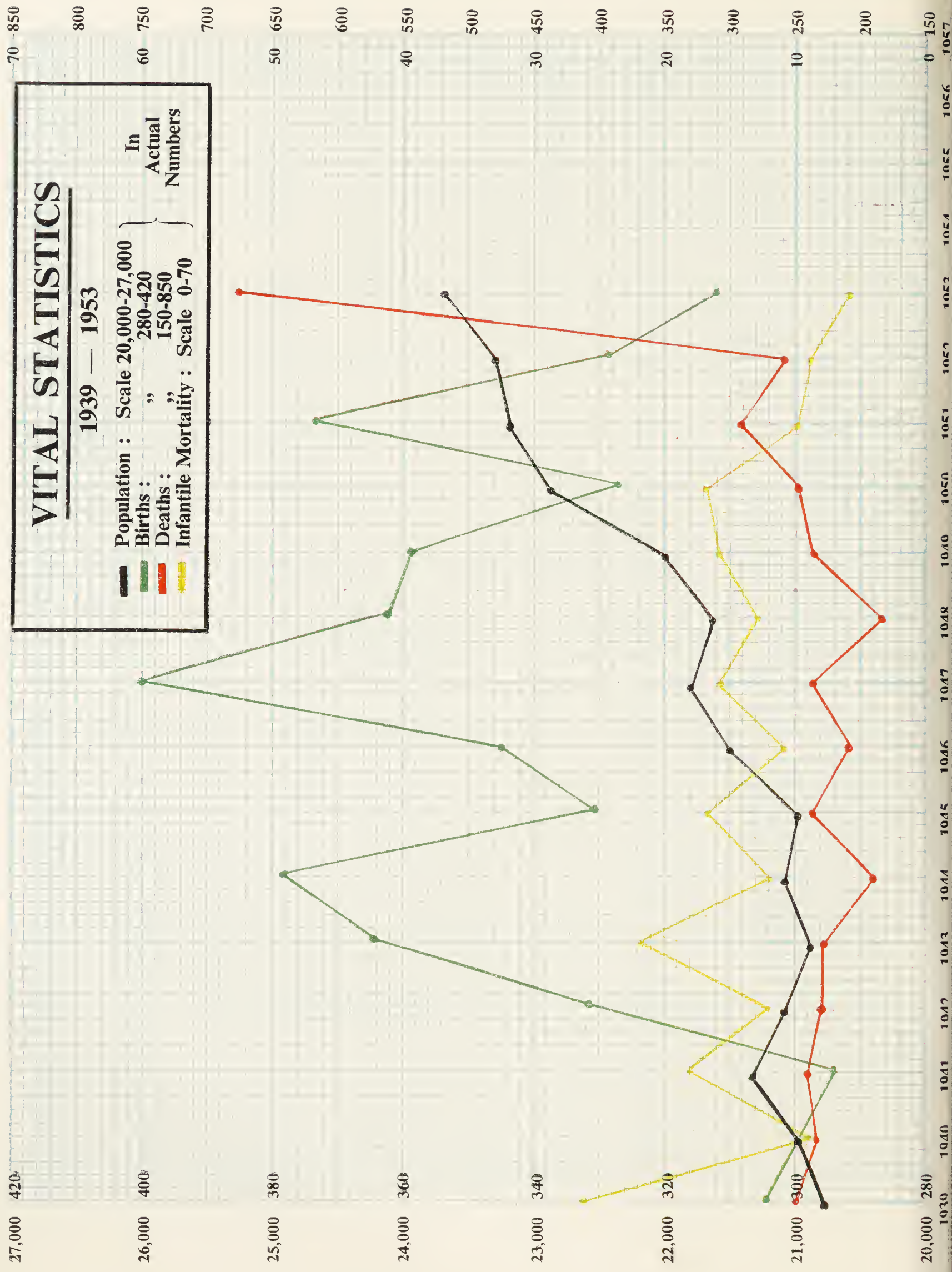
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# VITAL STATISTICS

1939 — 1953

Population :	Scale 20,000-27,000
Births :	280-420
Deaths :	150-850
Infantile Mortality :	Scale 0-70



**ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953**

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**Chairman of the Health Committee**

**COUNCILLOR J. FELLOWS**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**  
(Retired 31st July, 1953)

**S. C. J. FALKMAN, L.R.C.P. (Ed.), L.R.C.S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P. and**  
**S. (Glas.), L.M. Rotunda (Dublin), D.R.C.O.G. (London),**  
**D.P.H. (Durham)**

(Appointed 1st August, 1953)

**Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent**

**DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.**  
**Cert. Meat and Food Inspector**

**Additional Sanitary Inspector**

**R. B. M. ANDERSON, A.R.San.I., A.I.S.E.,**  
**M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A.**

**Pupil Sanitary Inspector**

**C. WILKES**

**Public Health Clerks**

**Mrs. F. DETHERIDGE**

**Miss S. A. OAKLEY**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
for the  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1953. My appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Sedgley Urban District from the 1st August, 1953, has made the writing of the Report somewhat difficult as for much of my information I had to depend on previous records and other official sources.

The year 1953 has shown no startling new developments. From the graph of Vital Statistics we observe that Infantile Mortality continues to fall. The previous lowest points were reached in the years 1941 and 1952, but due to the small numbers involved, this Graph will always show much fluctuation. One-third of the Infantile Deaths were not preventable so that the hope can be expressed that a further decline will manifest itself. Considering the 15 year period from 1939 until 1954 we have in the year 1953 reached the lowest level in Infantile Deaths.

The Graph of Births shows considerable fluctuations and the number of Births has continued to fall during the year 1953. A steep rise appeared from 1941 until 1944, during the war years, while another upwards curve started in the year 1945 finding its highest peak, ever reached during the last 15 years, in the year 1947. In the year 1950 the third upward curve becomes manifest which coincides with a sudden upward curve of the population. The 1941 and 1945 rises are possibly due to war marriages and the return of the Forces from abroad.

The Graph of Deaths began to show a rise in the year 1949 and is due to an ageing population which coincides with the low births in the years 1933 and 1934. This curve was therefore bound to rise. The very steep increase in deaths starting in 1952 is due to a new administrative measure from the General Registrar's Office (G.R.O. Circular (M.O.H.) No. 4. 1952.) by which deaths in Burton Road Hospital are now counted as Sedgley deaths but in the future the fluctuations will probably move in much the same manner from this new high level.



Finally the population from the year 1945 has shown a continued steady rise. Considering the population graph in conjunction with the graphs for Infantile Mortality and Births, it is apparent that the fall in Infantile Mortality is partly due to a fall in Births while compared with the Population Graph, the number of births manifests a sharp decline due to the tendency towards smaller families in our present age.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows an increase in Notifications and this is due to earlier detection of a Tuberculous Focus with Mass Radiography but it also is linked up with the steady increase in population. That the Tuberculosis Deaths have shown a marked fall as shown from the Tuberculosis Graph, is, considering the population trend, a favourable sign.

Considering the Graph of the Prevalence of Infectious Diseases 1939–1953 it appears that the graver forms of disease such as Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Dysentery, Meningococcal Infection, Puerperal Pyrexia, Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis form fortunately only a minor part of the whole picture. Tuberculosis still remains a prominent feature.

The appearance of Diphtheria in the Urban District in 1953 has been fully reported upon in the section of General Public Health.

The Council has maintained its progress in Housing and Development but much work remains to be done yet with regard to Clearance Areas.

The Water Supply of the Urban District has been generally satisfactory. The need for an extension of the Sewage Disposal Works at Lower Gornal and Gospel End has been outlined in the Report of the Surveyor quoted in the Section of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In general the year 1953 closes in an optimistic note and it shall remain the constant aim of the Health Department to foster the interests of Preventive Medicine, Housing, Sanitation and Environmental Hygiene to the best of its ability.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

S. C. J. FALKMAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

June, 1954.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1953**

Area: 3,854 acres.

Population: 23,670.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 6,623.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £408.

Rateable Value: £102,290.

General Rate: 22/-.

Birth Rate: 13.18; England and Wales: 15.5.

Average Birth Rate for ten previous years: 16.3 (Sedgley).

Death Rate: 28.6; England and Wales: 11.4.

Average Death Rate for ten previous years: 10.7 (Sedgley).

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births: 19.23; Eng. and Wales: 26.8.

Average Infantile Death Rate for ten previous years: 40.17.  
(Sedgley).

Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis: 5; from other Tuberculosis Diseases: 2.

Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate: .21; from other Tuberculosis Diseases: .085.

Tuberculosis Death Rate for England and Wales: 0.20.

Average death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis for ten previous years: .38 (Sedgley).

Average death rate from other forms of Tuberculosis for ten previous years: .067 (Sedgley).

## VITAL STATISTICS

	TOTAL	M.	F.	Birth Rate
Live Births .. ..	312	142	170	13.18
Legitimate ..	309	140	169	
Illegitimate ..	3	2	1	
Stillbirths: Total 7. Rate per 1,000 Total Births				21.94
Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth:				1
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:				
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (6) .. ..				19.23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births (6)				19.41
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. ..				81
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. ..				—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. ..				—
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..				1

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953

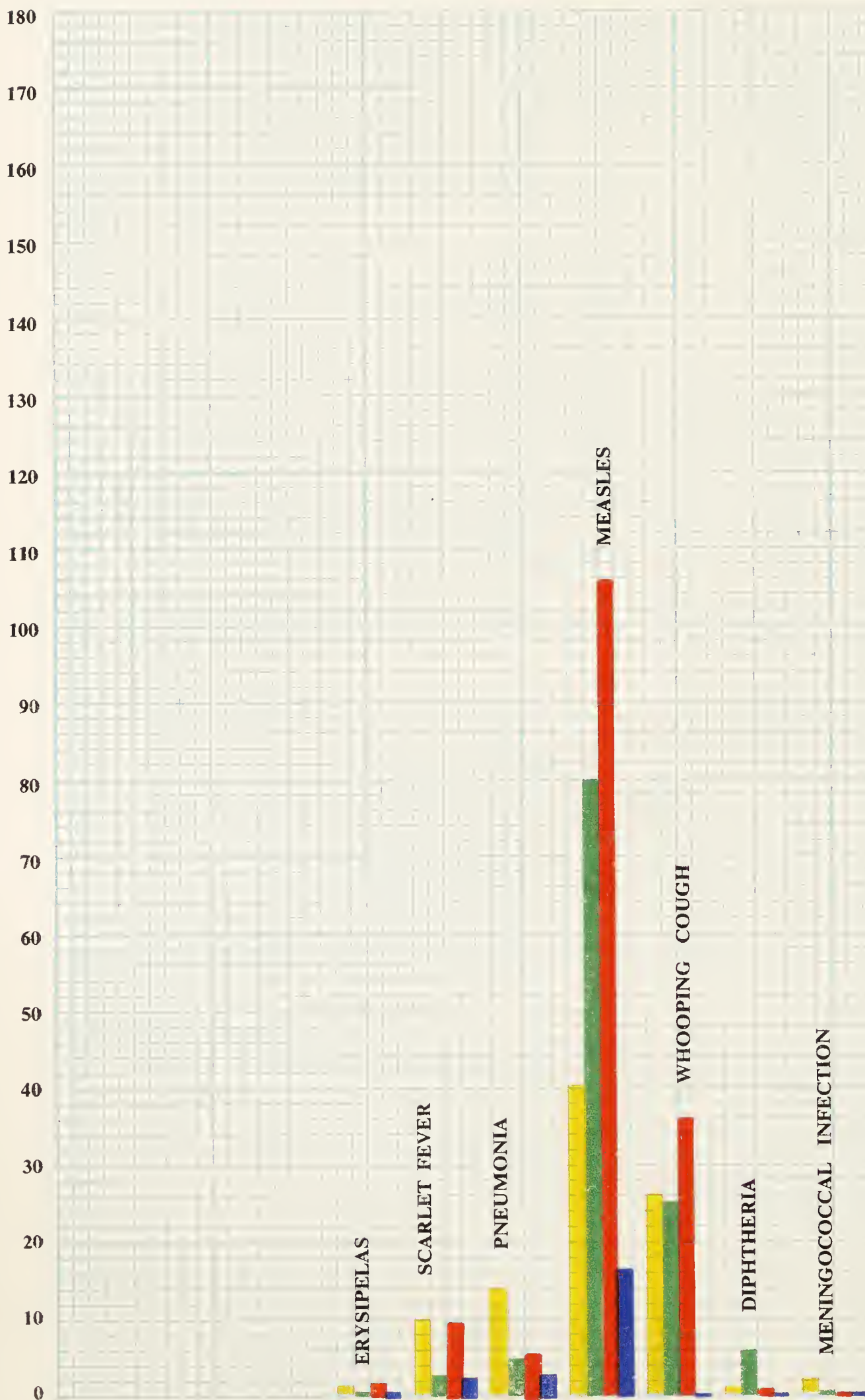
					M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	5	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	2	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	1
5.	Whooping cough	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	10	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	12	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	23	19
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	—	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	4	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	33	44
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	11	12
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	3	2
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	82	105
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	15	14
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	13	3
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	7	3
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	39	17
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	..	..	..	6	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	3	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	68	70
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	1	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	4	10
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	—
TOTAL					348	329





# LOCALITY DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (In Actual Numbers) 1953

SEDGLEY      UPPER GORNAL  
LOWER GORNAL      GOLDTHORN PARK



**AGE-GROUPS and LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**  
(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1953

DISEASE	Total All Ages	Sex		Under 1 year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Sedgley	Upper Gornal	Lower Gornal	Goldthorn Park	No. of Deaths in 1953	
		M.	F.														M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ..	26	9	17	—	1	3	19	3	—	—	—	—	10	3	10	3	—	—
Diphtheria ..	7	3	4	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	—
Pneumonia ..	28	20	8	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	15	4	14	5	6	3	7	3
Whooping Cough ..	87	37	50	11	24	24	27	1	—	—	—	—	26	25	36	—	—	—
Measles ..	243	132	111	6	61	57	117	2	—	—	—	—	40	80	106	17	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	397	205	192	18	86	86	165	7	3	9	17	6	93	119	161	24	7	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1953

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity .. ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Atelectasis ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Influenza .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Asphyxia .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Congenital Heart Disease .. ..	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	2	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	2	6

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No case of this disease occurred in the Sedgley Urban District during the reporting year.



## HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Officer of Health holds office in virtue of a joint appointment by the Sedgley Urban District Council, the Tettenhall Urban District Council and the Staffordshire County Council. Of his time 5/11ths is devoted to the Sedgley Urban District, 2/11ths to the Tettenhall Urban District and 4/11ths to the Staffordshire County Council. As Assistant County Medical Officer he is responsible for School Medical Inspections, School Clinics, Minor Ailment Clinics and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics; for Examinations under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, Ascertainment of Handicapped Pupils and Medical Examinations of Entrants to the Teaching Profession. In addition to the General Public Health duties for the Urban Districts the Medical Officer of Health also examines Applicants for Superannuation purposes.

The Sanitary Inspector who is also a qualified Meat and Food Inspector is a full time officer appointed solely by the Local Authority. His duties are concerned with General Sanitation, Housing and Rehousing, Demolition and Slum Clearance, Meat Inspection, Public Cleansing, and with the provisions of the Shops Acts. He further acts as Rodent Officer, as Welfare Officer in Civil Defence and as Inspector of Taxi Cabs.

Public Health and Sanitary matters are brought forward in the Public Health Committee, while Housing and Rehousing matters are dealt with in the Housing Committee and the Housing (Tenancies) Committee. These three Committees meet once monthly.

Three Health Visitors under the direction of the Local Health Authority cover the areas in Goldthorn Park, Sedgley, Upper Gornal and Lower Gornal. Since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, from the 5th July, 1948, the Health Services are provided by the County Council as the Local Health Authority and the following services have therefore become a County Council responsibility:—

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Domiciliary Midwifery.
3. Health Visiting.
4. Home Nursing.
5. Vaccination and Immunisation.
6. Ambulance Services.
7. Prevention of Illness; Care and After-Care.
8. Domestic Help Service.
9. Duties connected with Lunacy and Mental Health.
10. Provision of Health Centres.

No Health Centres are in existence in the Sedgley Urban District but negotiations have continued for some time with the Local Health Authority regarding future sites and construction of such centres.

### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Inspection of School Children is provided by the County Council who have also established Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics. The various age groups are examined periodically and from the School Inspections referred to these Clinics or to the General Practitioner if so required.

Cod Liver Oil is provided for cases of under-nutrition or under-development. In cases of Infectious Disease, and if deemed necessary, special steps are taken in conjunction with the School Authorities to exclude scholars who have been in contact with such disease. Protective measures, immunisation and isolation are furthermore under the direction of the Health Department.

The School, Dental, E.N.T., and Eye Clinics provided in the Urban District are given in a separate table together with sessions for speech therapy.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Staffordshire County Council maintains Ante-natal and Child Welfare Centres in the Sedgley, Upper Gornal and Lower Gornal areas. The Regional Hospital Board provides in addition Ante-natal Clinics in their own Hospitals and Departments in the Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham areas which are easily accessible to the population of the Urban District.

The Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home which forms part of the Burton Road Hospital, and Wordsley Hospital, are under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board. They provide accommodation for cases referred or booked from the Ante-natal Clinics or by General Practitioners. Cases wishing to remain at home are delivered by the County Midwives who, if so required, can call for the obstetric assistance of a General Practitioner.

The Staffordshire County Council also provides for the care and treatment of deformed, mentally sub-normal and handicapped children. These cases are selected from School Medical Inspections and Child Welfare Clinics or referred by General Practitioners. Illegitimate, homeless and neglected children are provided for in Nurseries, Children's Homes and Remand Homes of which there are 17 in the County. One home, the Dibdale Children's Home, is situated in the Urban District while a Nursery is forming part of the Burton Road Hospital.



### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Since the passing of this Act the former Public Assistance Services ceased and were taken over by the National Assistance Board under the Ministry of National Insurance. The functions of the Relieving Officers have therefore been discontinued and replaced by the Officers of the National Assistance Board. The National Assistance Board holds no office in the Sedgley Urban District.

As under the National Health Insurance everyone is now medically insured, the medical supervision and treatment of necessitous cases has become the responsibility of the Medical Practitioners and the Regional Hospital Board. Other classes of necessitous cases, such as homeless, abandoned or neglected individuals, are the responsibility of the County Welfare Authorities.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Hospital treatment for cases suffering from Infectious Disease and in need of such treatment is provided in Moxley Hospital and the Stallings Lane Hospital. Hospital admissions and discharges from and to the Sedgley Urban District are notified to the Sedgley Health Department. These hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Hospital Board.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Institutions are maintained by the Regional Hospital Board for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. No Tuberculosis Dispensary is operated in the Sedgley Urban District. The visiting of Tuberculous patients with their care and after-care is under the administration of the County Council. Dispensaries are situated at Dudley and Wolverhampton and several Sanatoria are available.

### SMALL-POX

Cases of suspected Smallpox are notified to the Smallpox Consultant in cases of doubt who takes further charge of the disposal of the case. Local protective and preventive measures are under the direction of the Health Department.

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The County Council does not provide for a Vaccination Centre in Sedgley, but arrangements can be made with the Medical Practitioner by those who wish themselves or their children vaccinated.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is undertaken in the Child Welfare and School Clinics, while special Immunisation Sessions in Schools provide for an increase in the immunity of the child population.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Area Office in Brierley Hill to the Child Welfare Clinics and through the Sedgley Public Health Department to the General Practitioners of the Urban District. Vaccination Lymph can be obtained from the Public Health Laboratory in Stafford.

#### AMBULANCES

The Ambulance Services are operated by the County Council. Transport for the Sedgley population is directed and operated from the Coseley Ambulance Centre. For Infectious Diseases the Ambulance is provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Stafford.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

##### 1. The Quadrant, Sedgley

###### ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Friday morning fortnightly.

###### CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Wednesday afternoon weekly.

###### SCHOOL CLINIC

Wednesday morning fortnightly.

###### SPEECH THERAPY

Monday all day weekly.

Friday afternoon weekly.

###### DENTAL CLINIC

Saturday morning weekly.

##### 2. Bleakhouse, Upper Gornal

###### ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Friday morning fortnightly.

###### CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Tuesday afternoon weekly.

###### SCHOOL CLINIC

Tuesday mornings weekly.

###### EYE CLINIC

Periodically.

###### E.N.T. CLINIC

Periodically.

##### 3. Lower Gornal

###### CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Friday afternoon weekly.

###### SCHOOL CLINIC

Friday morning fortnightly.

The days and times at which Clinics are held are liable to alteration from year to year.

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## GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH

In the year 1953 the Bakehouses, Restaurants and Work Canteens in Sedgley were all visited by me with the exception of one, as this place was closed on my arrival there. These bakehouses are of the 1—2 oven type, of small dimensions and as regards building and structure of the old fashioned class, here and there partly renovated.

The great majority had a satisfactory water supply with towels and washing facilities with little complaints of crickets or other insect pests. Due to the old-fashioned type of building the lighting in some of them could be improved. This would however involve a considerable expenditure for re-building purposes, possibly involving many structural difficulties.

Bread and pastry are the main commodities prepared in these bakehouses. Special attention was paid to the manufacture of pastries containing cream or custard, as these commodities have not infrequently been the cause of an outbreak of Salmonella Poisoning. In the outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever in South Wales in 1952 it was found experimentally that the great danger arises when cooked cake is moistened.

Synthetic creams which consist by weight of more than 50% of water can after filling and when infected, form a very ready culture medium for Paratyphoid Bacilli in the wet part of the cake. It was also found that Paratyphoid Bacilli remained viable for nearly a year in flour and multiplied freely in slightly damp flour sacks. Creams containing cellulose-ether do not support the growth of Salmonellae but those containing egg yolk and sodium alginate do. The multiplication of either Salmonellae or Paratyphoid organisms needs time and the optimum temperature.

I was therefore glad to be informed that the quantities of bread and pastries produced in the bakehouses were such that they were distributed within 24 hours and no storage of these commodities is resorted to. Only in very few instances creams or custards are used in the preparation of the mentioned foods.

In conjunction with my visits to the Sedgley Bakeries I have also visited three Works Canteens and the Canteen of Baggeridge Colliery.

Of the three Works Canteens the first receives 70 meals daily from the Civic Restaurant, and in addition 20 sandwich meals are prepared. No meat products or custards were stored, as the various foods are consumed the same day. Heating, lighting and ventilation are satisfactory.

In the second Works Canteen of a much larger size, 40 lunches, 15 teas and 10 overtime meals are prepared daily. This canteen is in possession of a large Refrigerator. Certain parts of the dining hall are somewhat dark but the kitchen and pantry are well heated, well lit, and have adequate ventilation. Heating and ventilation in the dining hall are also adequate.

The third Works Canteen was least satisfactory, but we were informed that an extension of the works is envisaged, together with an extension and renovation of the canteen. 30 meals daily are prepared here. The ceiling needs a new papering and painting and this held also for the kitchen part of the canteen. Heating, lighting and ventilation are however adequate.

Baggeridge Colliery Canteen proved to be splendid. All the walls were tiled, the slabs tiled or executed in stone and the kitchen is supplied with the most modern equipment to prepare meals on a large scale. The finish of this canteen in tiles and stone is extremely commendable and thoroughly hygienic as no remnants of food can escape into the cracks or crevices so often found in wood.

A large Refrigerator is used for the storage of fish and meat and Hot-Plates in electric ovens keep the food warm. Detergents are used freely and there is a plentiful supply of hot water. Heating, lighting and ventilation are of the first order.

In this establishment 394 dinners, 222 breakfasts, 768 wrapped sandwiches and 500 cakes and pastries are delivered weekly. Since the canteen was taken over by the National Coal Board, the Ministry of Food has on various occasions checked on the food value of the meals which was found of a good vitamin content, by their Research Centre in Birmingham. There seems to be some nuisance of flies and this question will have to be ascertained next summer. At regular intervals D.D.T. Bombs are used to destroy insect pests.

A modern First Aid Post is attached to the Colliery consisting of a Waiting Room, a Reception Room for emergencies, a Doctor's Surgery with toilet and administrative room annexe. These have all been newly built and are well equipped for the treatment of minor injuries and muscular rheumatism.

There are three Restaurants in Sedgley including the Civic Restaurant. This latter institution is fully provided with the most up-to-date equipment for the provision of meals on a large scale. These include Boilers, a Refrigerator and Hot-Plates in ovens in which food can be kept warm. Detergents are freely used to disinfect plates, crockery and cutlery and a plentiful supply of hot water is available.

The staff is adequately instructed regarding hygienic precautions. Lighting of the kitchen and restaurant is abundant, while heating and ventilation are most satisfactory.



The two remaining Restaurants are private undertakings; one of the two is used mainly as a snack-bar. The snack-bar is of small dimensions with a small kitchen. Furniture and equipment are scrupulously clean and the only criticism which can possibly be made is that the ventilation of the kitchen could be slightly improved. The remaining restaurant has adequate heating, lighting and ventilation and the kitchen is very clean with good lighting and ventilation. There is however scope for modernisation. A Refrigerator is available in the premises below.

#### FOOD POISONING

No cases of Food Poisoning have occurred in the Urban District during the year.

#### CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

The total number of cases admitted to Hospital for Infectious Diseases were 23:—

##### Moxley Hospital

Diphtheria .. .. .	7
Tonsillitis ? Diphtheria .. .. .	1
Laryngeal Spasm .. .. .	1
Laryngeal Croup .. .. .	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	2
Measles .. .. .	1
Whooping Cough .. .. .	1
Bronchitis with Whooping Cough ..	1
Meningitis .. .. .	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	1
Confinement as Diphtheria Contact ..	1

##### Stallings Lane Hospital

Scarlet Fever .. .. .	2
Scarlet Fever with Scalds .. .. .	1

##### Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton

Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	1
---------------------------------	---

##### Children's Hospital Birmingham

Pneumonia .. .. .	1
-------------------	---

SWABS AND SPECIMENS submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:—

Throat Swabs .. .. .	86
Nose Swabs .. .. .	37
Swabs from Tonsils .. .. .	3
Swabs from Gums .. .. .	2
Sputa Swabs .. .. .	244
Cultures for Myco-Tuberculosis ..	116

The great majority of these Sputa Swabs were submitted by the Tuberculosis Officer.

## DIPHTHERIA

On Thursday the 5th November, 1953, two cases of Diphtheria were notified in the Sedgley Urban District. Both cases had been admitted to the Moxley Isolation Hospital where one case died. A postmortem examination confirmed the diagnosis of Diphtheria. As the second case was a sister of the deceased and had been to school, the Headmaster of the Upper Gornal School was immediately communicated with and the children of the class to which this case belonged were sent home with a circular letter from the Headmaster requesting the parents to isolate the children in their homes until the following Monday, as by that time the incubation period had elapsed. Instructions were also given to report immediately to the General Practitioner any symptoms which might manifest themselves during the period of isolation. The Sanitary Department fumigated the classroom the next day.

All General Practitioners were circularised to suspect Diphtheria in obscure cases of sore throat and to stimulate immunisation as much as possible in their own practice. Swabs were taken from all home contacts and other contacts we were able to trace.

On the 7th November two further cases in the same family were notified, which were subsequently found to be Carriers. As these two members had been employed in the Upper Gornal Co-operative Shop all employees handling food were swabbed. The infected members of the family were removed to the Isolation Hospital where the mother of the two first notified cases was also admitted and where she gave birth to a child on the 8th November. On the 9th November another case of Nasal Diphtheria was notified in Lower Gornal and a circular letter sent to all General Practitioners requesting them to have any suspicious "sore throats" swabbed and the specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory without delay, while on the 10th November the Headmasters of Schools were requested to send children complaining of sore throats home with instructions to the respective parents to bring this to the attention of the attending Practitioner without delay.

Further cases of Tonsillar Diphtheria were notified on the 30th November and 9th December, 1953. In all cases the routine of swabbing and quarantine and exclusion from school was repeated, and since the 9th December, 1953, no further cases of Diphtheria were notified to the Health Department.

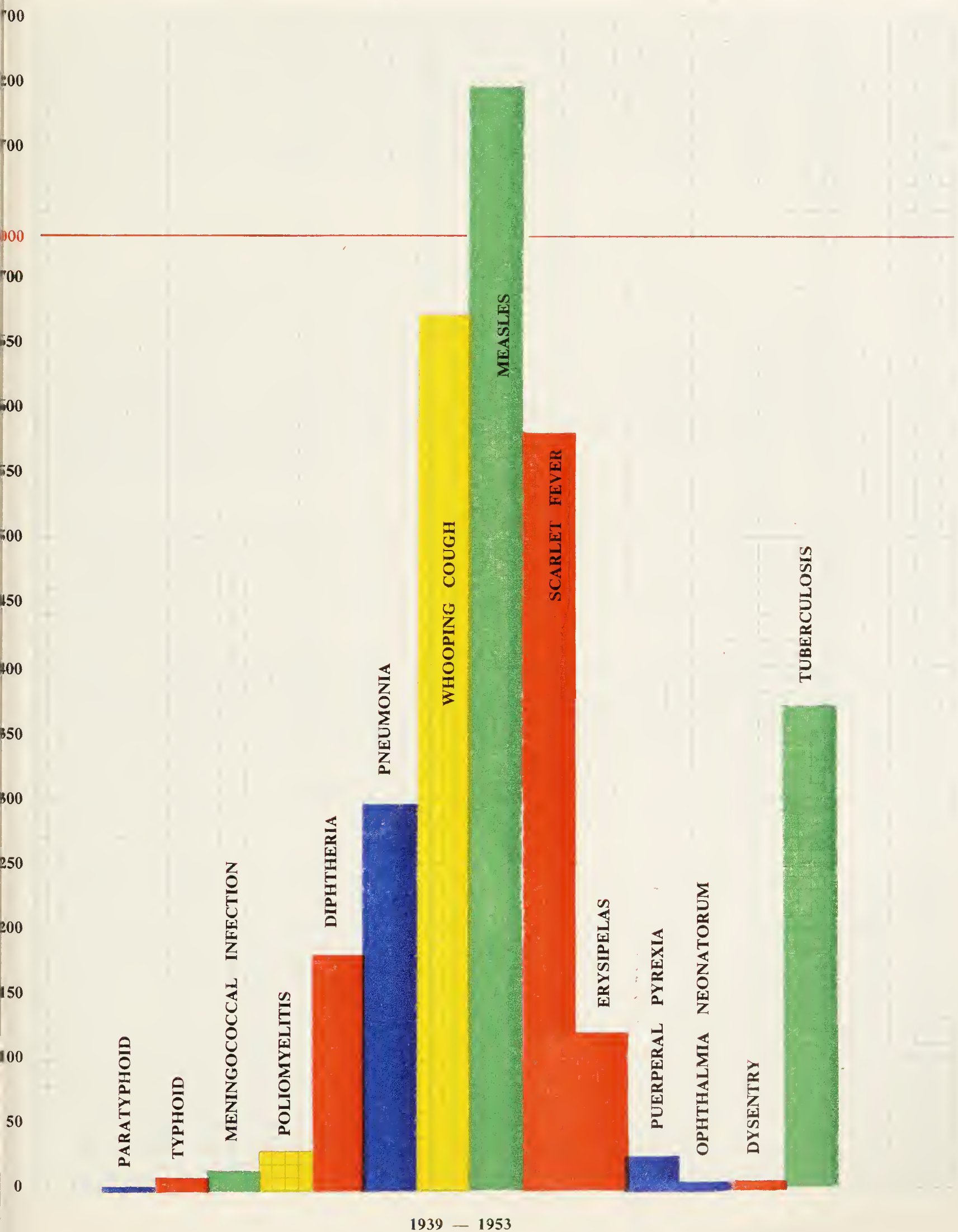
Of the total number of 7 cases, 4 cases occurred in the same house, and it was found that of these 4 cases 2 proved to be Diphtheria carriers. One further case, although not living in the same house, belonged to the same family and was living in close contact with the members of the infected dwelling. In the last two cases of Nasal and Tonsillar Diphtheria no previous contact with Diphtheria or the presence of Carriers could be elicited.



# PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1939—1953

(IN ACTUAL NUMBERS NOTIFIED)





## **PROPAGANDA DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION**

In connection with the sporadic cases of Diphtheria notified in the Urban District in the month of November the moment had arrived to give a fresh stimulus to Diphtheria Immunisation and to avail ourselves of the opportunity given by the Central Council of Information to place advertisements in the "Express and Star", the cost of which is largely borne by that Council. This suggestion was readily accepted by the Sedgley and Tettenhall Urban District Councils after which arrangements were made to have three advertisements inserted in the paper at monthly intervals, during the months of November and December, 1953, and January, 1954.

## **GENERAL MEASURES**

School notifications of infectious diseases are received by the Health Department and carefully studied for any features necessitating prompt action and location.

When desirable the schools are disinfected while terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is attained by the use of formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluid.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47.**

No powers under this Section of the Act were exercised during the reporting year.

## **CLEARANCE AREAS**

On the 3rd November, 1953, Official Representation was made by the Medical Officer of Health with regard to the Hermit Street Clearance Area comprising 18 houses with 62 inhabitants.

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## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified for the year was 26 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary as against 16 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary in 1952.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Respiratory		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 to 9 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 19 years	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
20 to 24 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 years	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 54 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 64 years	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 years and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	14	12	1	—	5	—	2	—

Deaths are in relation to the total number of notified cases on the Register.



27,000 70

26,000 60

25,000 50

24,000 40

23,000 30

22,000 20

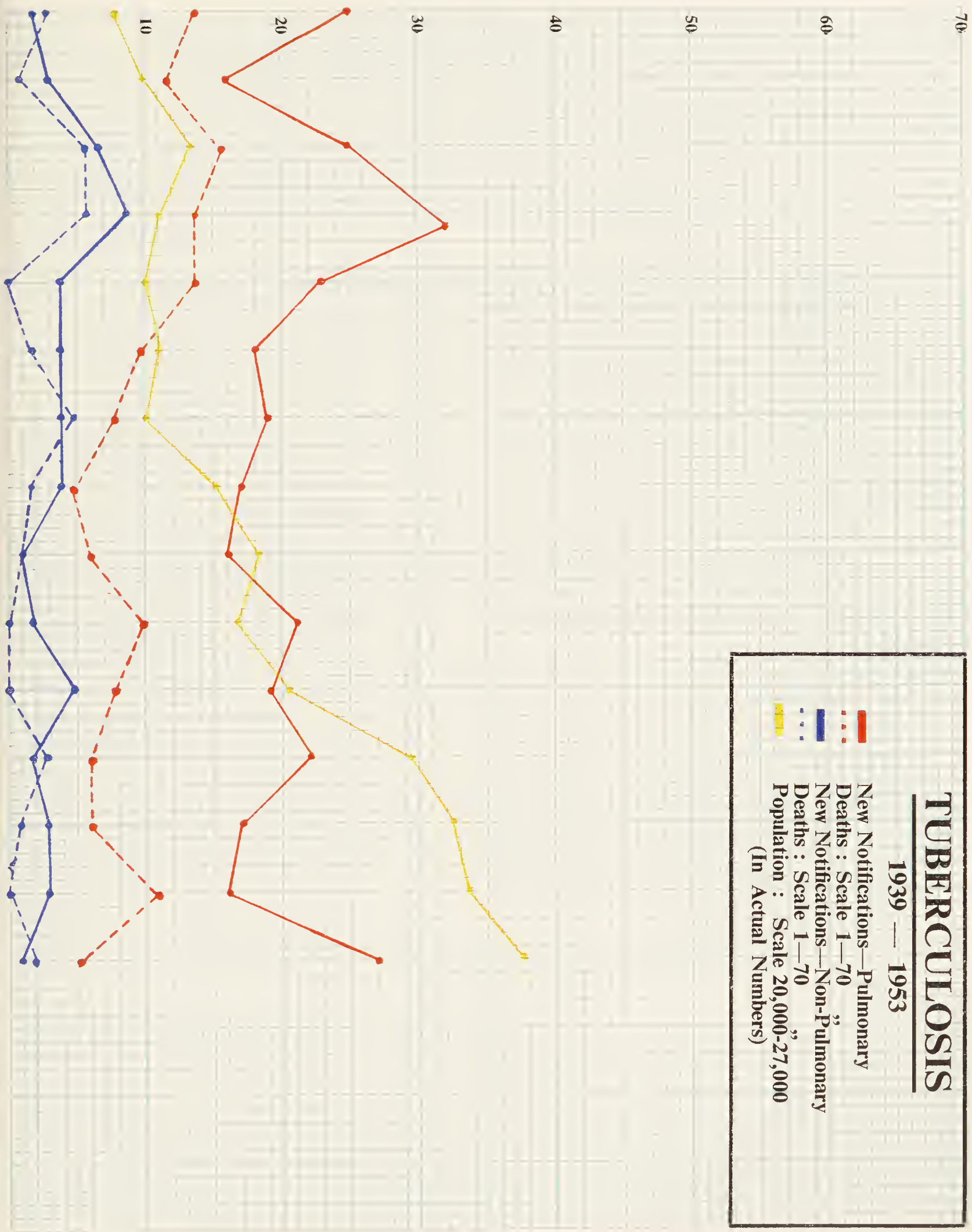
21,000 10

20,000

# TUBERCULOSIS

1939 — 1953

- New Notifications—Pulmonary
- Deaths : Scale 1—70
- New Notifications—Non-Pulmonary
- Deaths : Scale 1—70
- Population : Scale 20,000-27,000
- (In Actual Numbers)





### TUBERCULOSIS RE-HOUSING

Since my appointment on the 1st August, 1953, a special routine has been adopted by me in dealing with Applicants suffering from Tuberculosis. All applicants are visited by me personally, the home conditions, overcrowding, possibility of bedroom segregation of the patient, etc., are assessed and a note made on their respective cards. Notifications of Tuberculosis are referred to the Sanitary Department and a check is made whether such notified cases are applicants for a house and the cards of those who have applied are segregated.

Copies of the Environmental Forms sent by the Health Visitors to the Health Department are carefully scrutinised and referred to the Sanitary Department to ascertain whether any of the cases mentioned in the forms might have become applicants although they were not applicants at the time of notification. Sputum results are noted on the Tuberculosis Cards by the Clerk of the Health Department and admissions and discharges from Sanatoria are similarly recorded.

The Medical Officer of Health has therefore in his possession a file containing the cards of Applicants suffering from Tuberculosis and from which information can be obtained at a glance regarding housing conditions, overcrowding, possibilities of bedroom segregation, sputum results and admissions and discharges from Sanatoria.

This file is studied by me periodically and the most necessitous, and all infectious cases are reported to the Chairman of the Housing Committee.

I am very grateful to be able to state that the Housing Committee receives the recommendations of the Medical Officer with the greatest consideration and deals with such recommended cases most efficiently. The waiting list for urgent cases is therefore negligible.

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## HOUSING

Houses completed during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1953:—

Municipal houses . . . . . 141

Private houses completed . . . . . 53

making the total Municipal houses completed since the war 1,027, and the total private houses completed since the war 252.

During the year 1953 the Firs and Quarries Estate and the Moden Hill Estate were completed. The Housing Estates in Sedgley are all of the modern type and the Sedgley Council is to be commended on the keen spirit of progress it has shown in its housing policy. In the main Sedgley is a residential area with occasional industrial sections scattered in the southern part of the Urban District. In comparison few slum areas exist and those in existence have the close attention of the Health Committee and the Sanitary Department which continue their vigorous policy of clearance and demolition as far as circumstances and conditions allow. The outstanding areas for future clearance are now the Upper Gornal, Castle Street and Lake Street areas. An area on Hermit Street, after an official Representation was submitted, has been declared a Clearance Area during the reporting year.

There are apart from the mentioned areas many individual properties fit for demolition. These properties are often over 100 years old and the steep increase in materials and wages will make it increasingly difficult to render such property fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense.

Neither is it thought that the cessation of Rent Restriction nor the pending legislation with regard to Repair Subsidies will have much influence on such properties or on the slum areas mentioned above.

The housing situation has not altered to an appreciable degree and a considerable housing application list remains to be dealt with.

If so requested the Medical Officer of Health visits applicants for houses who are applying on health grounds. The findings are reported to the Chairman of the Housing Committee, and the matter is further considered and dealt with by this Committee.

During my time of office the number of applicants on these grounds has been small and has met with the kind consideration of the Housing Committee. I wish to commend the Committee on the great kindness and humanity they have displayed in such cases. The procedure regarding Tuberculosis Re-housing is outlined by me in a separate section while the Sanitary Inspector reports further on housing problems in his section of the Report.

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## WATER

The Sedgley Urban District, with the exception of the Goldthorn Park area, is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The Goldthorn Park area receives its supply from the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., and to Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., the respective Engineers-in-Chief of the undermentioned undertakings, for the following information:—

### (a) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

- (i) "The water supply to the area in its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.
- (ii) The Sedgley district is supplied by water from service reservoirs at Dudley, the supply to which can be maintained from four pumping stations in the Smestow Valley and two pumping stations near Lichfield. The greater part of the water supplied to Sedgley comes from two of the Smestow Valley Stations.

Chlorination is practised at both stations but owing to practicable difficulties, samples of the raw water are not obtainable.

During 1953, 198 samples of the chlorinated water from the two stations were all free from coliform bacteria. Samples are also examined of the supply within the Council's boundaries at:—

Sedgley Tank No. 1.  
Sedgley Tank No. 2.  
Sedgley Reservoir.  
Waterman's house, Sedgley.

During 1953, one sample out of 23 from Sedgley Tank No. 2 contained Bact. coli. in 50 ml, and 2 out of 25 from the Waterman's house contained coliform bacteria, one confirming intermediates in 50 ml, and the other aerogenes in 10 ml. 23 samples from Sedgley Tank No. 1 and 23 from Sedgley Reservoir were all free from coliform bacteria.

The average results for 1953 of the samples examined from the Waterman's house, Sedgley, were:—

pH	.. .. .	7.0			
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	..	75	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	.. .. .	34.5	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)		Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)		Trace	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	2.6	"	"	"

Oxygen absorbed (3hr. at 27°C.)	.12	parts per million
Temporary Hardness ..	70	” ” ”
Permanent Hardness ..	56	” ” ”
Total Hardness .. ..	126	” ” ”
Iron (Fe) .. ..	.04	” ” ”
Manganese (Mn) .. ..	Nil	” ” ”
Zinc (Zn) .. ..	Nil	” ” ”
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	Nil	” ” ”
Free Cl .. ..	Nil	” ” ”

(iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any of the 25 samples examined from the Waterman's house.

(iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations as a precautionary measure.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

(v) The following are particulars of the number of houses supplied and the approximate population:—

	Houses	Persons
(a) with internal supply ..	5,420	20,325
(b) with tap in wash-house detached from house ..	538	2,346
(c) supplied 2 houses to 1 wash-house tap ( <i>i.e.</i> , 109 taps)	218	
(d) supplied 3 houses to 1 wash-house tap ( <i>i.e.</i> , 15 taps)	45	
(e) supplied 4 houses to 1 wash-house tap ( <i>i.e.</i> , 8 taps) ..	32	
(f) supplied by outside taps— 13 taps .. ..	27	119
	6,280	22,790

**Note:** The population for item (a) is calculated on a basis of 3.75 persons per house”.

## (b) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking

The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking to the Goldthorn Park area is derived from a number



of sources of supply, and the relative proportions depend on the part of the district and varying circumstances.

- (i) The supply of water to the portion of the Sedgley Urban District concerned has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.
- (ii) The following is a summary of the Bacteriological examination of water going into distribution.

Number of samples taken	Presumptive Coli-aerogenes per 100 ml.			
	0	1—2	3—10	Over 10
813	797	11	3	2

- (iii) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking has no plumbo-solvent action.
  - (iv) Subsequent to treatment at the works, where necessary, there has been no known contamination of the supply.
  - (v) The number of dwelling houses in the Goldthorn Park area supplied direct is 832, and the population thereof estimated at 2,912. None are supplied by standpipe.
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## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. W. M. Jones, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.M.I.C.E. for the following report:—

### Sewerage

“No serious trouble has been experienced with the foul or surface water sewers during the year, apart from several blockages, notably at Cross Lane and High Street.

No new sewerage works were constructed during the year except those on housing estates, and the surface water sewers in the portion of the Wolverhampton—Dudley Road which was reconstructed.

Arrangements for dealing with foul water in Garden Walk and Modenhill were completed and function satisfactorily.

The need for additional surface water sewers in many roads is very great, particularly on certain classified roads where in severe weather dangerous ice sheeting occurs over the channels and carriageways.

Further foul sewer extensions are also required in various parts of the District in order that cesspools can be abolished.

### Sewage Disposal

The Severn Rivers Board have taken an interest in the quality of the effluents discharged into the brooks at Gospel End Works and Lower Gornal Sewage Disposal Works.

The effluents are not up to the recommended standard particularly that from Lower Gornal.

A scheme has been prepared and submitted informally to the Minister for extending Lower Gornal Disposal Works to deal with the existing excess flow, sewage to be taken from Dudley and future flow from residential areas planned for the Lower Gornal District.

A similar extension will be required at Gospel End Disposal Works when areas zoned for development are proceeded with.

The Trent River Board are somewhat concerned about the quality of the effluent from Upper Gornal Disposal Works, and discussions are taking place with a view to improving the quality of the effluent.

The cause of much of the trouble is that all the streams into which the effluents discharge are very small, with very variable flows. Such conditions make the production of a high quality effluent most necessary.

### Public Conveniences

The new convenience at Dudding Road was completed

during the year, making a total of five modern conveniences in the District.

Damage continues to be done to these about which the Council are very concerned. Damage was done at the Dudding Road convenience within a few days of its being opened for use.

### **Municipal Cemetery**

Burials have not yet commenced, but early in 1954, these should be possible.

The Sedgley and District Joint Cemetery Committee will shortly appoint a Superintendent, and proceed with the building of an administrative block, and a house for the Superintendent, at the main entrance from Chase Road.

Brierley Hill Council have expressed interest in the proposal to erect a crematorium on this site and the matter is to be explored further by the three Authorities concerned”.

### **SANITARY INSPECTION**

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner. Details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

### HOUSING

In reporting on the work of the department in the vast and important subject of housing, I feel it would be convenient to divide the subject-matter into sections.

#### I. Nuisances

When a complaint is made, and on inspection found to be justified, or when matters are discovered on routine inspection which require action by the department, informal notices are sent to the owner of the property or the author of the nuisance as the case may be. No particular statute is mentioned in such informal notices, although at the back of our minds the Public Health Act, 1936, is ever present. If no action is taken on such informal notices, it is this Act on which we mainly rely when statutory action is envisaged, especially on Sec. 93 thereof.

During 1953, the works listed below were carried out as a result of the service of notices as described in the preceding paragraph with respect to dwelling houses.

Burst pipes repaired	..	..	..	2
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	5
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	4
Dirty premises cleansed	..	..	..	1
Doors repaired	..	..	..	2
Drainage provided	..	..	..	9
Drainage cleared	..	..	..	6
Firegrates repaired or renewed	..	..	..	4
Floors repaired	..	..	..	15
Fowl pens tidied	..	..	..	3
House roofs repaired	..	..	..	30
Plasterwork repaired	..	..	..	17
Sink waste pipe repaired	..	..	..	1
Spouting repaired	..	..	..	2
Stair treads repaired	..	..	..	1
Sheds removed	..	..	..	1
Walls pointed	..	..	..	10
Washing boilers repaired or renewed	..	..	..	5
Water supply re-introduced	..	..	..	1
W.C's. repaired	..	..	..	6
W.C. cisterns repaired	..	..	..	2
Windows repaired	..	..	..	13

There are several points in connection with this list on which I should like to comment.

- (1) The comparatively small amount of work carried out to the 6,500 odd houses in this district does not mean that

this side of our work is being neglected. Where houses are in a bad state, it is felt that it is far better to leave them until they can be dealt with under the Housing Act, rather than tinker with the problem under the Public Health Act. This view is supported by many tenants. They do not want to be bothered with fiddling little matters which leave the house pretty much as it was before. A new house, yes! Or, thorough renovation perhaps, but in anything else they are hardly interested.

- (2) Another reason for the comparatively meagre results of a year's work lies in the Public Health Act itself. Many people fondly imagine that a sanitary inspector, merely by sending a notice, can make a landlord do anything he asks. Section 93, or the nuisance section of the Public Health Act, 1936, seems to have changed its whole outlook since it first appeared in the Act of 1875. Then it was concerned with the abatement of gross nuisances—accumulations of filth; serious blockages in drains, ditches and so on; overflowing cesspools and such like. These matters, as will be observed from the table above, now form a minute portion of the complaints received and the tendency now is to use this section for small housing repairs. But sec. 92 of the Act states that in order that a defect may be dealt with as a statutory nuisance, it must be prejudicial to health or a nuisance. Legal authorities have ruled that in order to be a nuisance, the public or third parties must be prejudiced, which means that housing defects, generally speaking, cannot be claimed to be nuisances. We must therefore, prove prejudice to health in every case. This could give rise to most interesting and lengthy legal and medical arguments in court, but for practical purposes it means that most of the items complained about by tenants cannot be dealt with under the Public Health Act. We might sustain an argument in support of asking for repairs to leaking roofs, damp walls, dangerous floors and defective sanitary fittings, for example, but not for broken plaster-work, worm-eaten floor boards, defective washing boilers and so on. All this considerably restricts what we can reasonably do under this Act. It may be pointed out that some of the matters in the above table should not have been asked for. A number of them, however, were achieved by agreement with the owners concerned.
- (3) The third point in this connection is that the number of complaints received from the public is remarkably low. There are seldom more than one or two per week, and of these received, fully 50% are found to warrant no action.



These consist of complaints about neighbours, their children or their dogs, complaints about very trivial matters; unfounded complaints just to get hold of the inspector to enquire how they stand for a council house and so save themselves the trouble of coming to the office. We even had a complaint about a ghost in a house. The small number of complaints is not due to inaction by the department in the past. Every complaint, signed or anonymous, is dealt with.

If the informal notices mentioned above do not achieve the desired results, the matters are reported to the Health Committee and statutory notices under the appropriate sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, are served. During the year under review, 13 such notices were served, in every case, on the owner of the property.

At the end of the year, six of these notices had been complied with, arrangements are being made to deal with another one ourselves in default, and in the other six cases, the works will be completed early in 1954.

Four court cases were heard during the year before the Stipendiary Magistrate and at the end of the year another two are pending. We were successful in obtaining Nuisance Orders from the Court in every case.

## **II. Housing Act Repairs**

Under the Housing Act, 1936, sec. 9, a notice can be served on an owner of a house and repairs asked for which could not legally be enforced under the Public Health Act. But there are snags under this statute, so serious in fact, that we found the section in question unworkable.

The notice should state that in the opinion of the authority the works asked for will render the house fit for habitation. As the only matters which can be included in the notice are those which render the house in some respect unfit for habitation, it follows that everything in this category must be included. You cannot simply ask for a new roof for the house, if plasterwork is broken and walls damp or other defects present. The whole premises must be inspected and every defect listed. This has resulted in such long lists of defects that the cost when worked out was found to be unreasonable.

Where the cost of repairs is unreasonable, a word which is not defined in the Act, action cannot be taken under this section, but procedure under sec. 11 should be initiated, a section which is dealt with later.

With present day building costs and pegged rents, every house which might have had a Housing Act notice was found to be in the unreasonable class so far as cost of repairs was concerned. For this



purpose, 50% of the value of the house on a 20 years life was taken as a reasonable amount to ask the owner to spend.

One further snag is the requirement that should the owner fail to carry out the work asked for, the local authority should do it in default and recover the cost. This sounds delightfully simple, but doing the work in default means preparing copies of the specification, advertising for tenders, accepting the lowest, supervising the shoddy work which you expect, and trying for years after to look owner and tenant straight in the face, and perhaps seeing the house fall into disrepair again in a few years and be unable to do anything about it. I am aware that many owners themselves repair their houses in the cheapest possible way, but they cannot afterwards blame the local authority for it. As for recovering the cost, the local authority pays the bill and may collect the rent for some years to come.

This is all very well if only an occasional house is in question, but do this repeatedly and questions will begin to be asked about where the money is coming from.

All in all, and for the reasons stated above, no action was taken during the year under sec. 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, beyond thinking about the matter and trying to juggle with a lot of figures.

### III. Individual Unfit Houses

Where a house cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost action may be taken under sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, which may eventually lead to its demolition. Generally speaking there are two classes of house which are dealt with thus:—(a) the unfit house, the one which cannot be made fit, the one you want to see condemned; and (b) the house you want to see repaired, but the cost is a bit more than you can get away with under sec. 9, the house you are forcing the owner to repair under threat of demolition.

Some people have always felt that the latter procedure (*i.e.*, b above) was a little unethical. To-day it is also positively dangerous. The house is brought under sec. 11 to force the owner to give an undertaking to repair. But he may not be able to afford to give an undertaking, he may not be willing to do so, he may even be glad to get rid of the property. The result often is that the house is condemned, not because of inherent sanitary defects, but merely because of disrepair.

If this happens on a fairly large scale your programme of condemning the worst houses may be completely upset. You may find yourself condemning those houses where the tenants make the most noise, in fact, what it may amount to is a situation where those tenants who want a new Council House and can make enough fuss and bother can almost condemn their own houses.

During the year only three houses, 22—23—24, Dudley Road, were considered under sec. 11 of the Housing Act. These particular houses were not in good condition, but there were many worse in the district, they could have been repaired. The owner, however, showed no interest in their fate, no undertaking was submitted and demolition orders were consequently made. The houses were dealt with because of repeated complaints and pressure to such an extent that the situation could not be ignored. Action under the Public Health Act was useless, sec. 9 of the Housing Act was out of the question because of cost, and sec. 11 was the only alternative.

Fewer houses were condemned in 1953 than in any year since the end of the War. There were two main reasons for this (a) the difficulty of re-housing, and (b) the realization that the demolition of individual houses was leaving ugly scars throughout the district.

With regard to (a), the Housing Committee have agreed to a 20% allocation of all new houses for tenants of condemned property. The number of houses we condemn, therefore, depends on the number built by the authority, and if we take any particular year, by the lag or number still waiting to be re-housed from previous years. During 1953 we had sufficient families in condemned houses still waiting to be re-housed to obviate the necessity for further condemnations.

With respect to (b), we had found that the demolition of condemned property was not proceeding satisfactorily. Some houses were only partly demolished leaving ugly gaping holes. The site almost always looked worse after so-called demolition than before—heaps of rubble overgrown with weeds, the opening-up to public view of back lands, and the nuisance to adjoining property. We felt that our future policy should lie in the direction of Clearance Areas rather than individual unfit houses. Such a policy is, of course, much slower at the start, but should eventually have considerable momentum.

#### **IV. Clearance Areas**

In my last Annual Report I mentioned that a scheme for the redevelopment of practically the whole of the old part of Upper Gornal had been approved in principle. The area in question contains 564 houses together with 78 business premises, and it was decided to deal with this extensive project by means of a series of clearance areas.

During the year under review a start was made and a clearance area was defined in Hermit Street, consisting of 18 dwelling-houses and an office belonging to an adjoining industrial firm. This is a very small area, when the whole scheme is taken into consideration, but it was considered better to start in a small way. The area is



being dealt with as a compulsory purchase order, and it will be necessary to await my next report for news of the outcome.

Since the above clearance area was defined and the matter passed to other hands, the department has proceeded to plan the next clearance area to be tackled. I feel personally that the main street should receive our next attention and preliminary inspections have already taken place there.

The following table is one which the Ministry require and is a return for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

PART A. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936)			
	Number of dwelling houses demolished in the period		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit Houses	Other Houses	
(1) Land Coloured Pink	Nil	—	
(2) Land Coloured Grey	—	Nil	Nil
PART B. HOUSES NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
	Number of		
	Houses	Persons displaced	
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS			
(1) HOUSING ACT, 1936			
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under sec. 11	25	80	



(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under sec. 11 and still in force .. ..	Nil	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed sec. 12 .. .. .	Nil	Nil
(2) HOUSING ACT, 1949		
(a) Closing Orders made under sec. 3(1) .. .. .	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition orders determined and closing orders substituted under sec. 3(2) ..	Nil	Nil
(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953 ..		
Closing Orders made under sec. 10(1)	Nil	Nil
		Number of houses
REPAIRS		
INFORMAL ACTIONS		
(4) Number of unfit defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .		41
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS		
(5) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(a) by owners .. .. .		2
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..		Nil
(6) HOUSING ACT, 1936		
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (sections 9—10—11 and 16)		
(a) by owners .. .. .		Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..		Nil

## V. Re-housing

The letting of all Council-owned property is carried out by the Health Department. This includes, of course, the interviewing of applicants for houses, the keeping of registers and lists, the checking of cases, the preparation of reports, the arranging of exchanges, and the many other odd jobs which are bound to arise where over 2,000 houses are owned by the local authority.

Residents of houses under demolition order, or those requiring re-housing because of compulsory purchase orders are allotted 20% of all new houses erected. This has meant that in the past few years we have been enabled to proceed with slum clearance at a reasonable speed. There are definite indications however, that this percentage will be insufficient for the programme of slum clearance which we envisage in the near future.

So far, the condemning of houses has to a certain extent depended on the figure of 20%. If we proceed now with clearance areas, re-housing will have to take place whether the figure of 20% is exceeded or not.

Another 20% of all new houses is reserved for tenants of what we call sub-standard houses. The houses in question are not those which have been condemned, but are those lacking modern amenities, sometimes in anything but good condition, where the tenant desires something better.

I believe that this 20% has saved us a great deal of the trouble that might have arisen through our failure to improve housing conditions satisfactorily under the Public Health Act or Housing Act. If we cannot have repairs or improvements carried out to a house, we can at least re-house the tenant. The owner, before re-letting, often carries out certain works of his own volition, works which he would not willingly have carried out before.

Most of these vacated houses are let again to young couples, generally known to the owner but nevertheless thereby relieving our general housing application list.

The other 60% of new houses goes to what are best described as families without a separate home of their own. A points scheme is used to help the Committee in determining the most deserving of these applicants. This points scheme is confidential. It is far too complicated to be easily followed without close study and in the hands of many applicants would only give rise to needless and perhaps endless argument.

The complete list of applicants at the beginning of the year numbered 948. At the end of the year this figure had increased to 952.

During the year under review, with the new houses available, the odd vacancies which occurred from time to time, and our policy of exchanging families to more suitable houses, a total of 218 families in all were found new accommodation. This included a number of flats let mainly to elderly couples or single persons.

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## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Apart from Cottagers' pigs, the only meat inspection necessary was that carried out at a small bacon factory in the district.

During the year under review 3,326 pigs were inspected on these premises, and in addition 218 cottagers' pigs were inspected at slaughter houses in the district which had been licensed for this purpose.

The following table gives particulars of the meat inspected and condemned.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .	3,544
Number inspected .. .. .	3,544
<b>All diseases except tuberculosis</b>	
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. .	240
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .. .. .	6.8
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. .	130
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	3.7

With reference to the above table, the whole carcase which was condemned was that of a pig which died after arrival at the slaughterhouse. The slaughtermen, hoping to save the meat, stuck the animal and dressed the carcase. The specific cause of death, even after analysis of certain organs, was not determined.

The principal disease, apart from tuberculosis, which caused condemnation of organs or parts of carcases was pneumonia. Parasites, abscesses and bruising also accounted for parts being rejected. The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 600 lbs.

On the whole the pigs slaughtered in the district during the year were of good quality and remarkably free from disease.

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Foodstuffs condemned in shops during the year are listed below. For the most part, these consist of blown tins. In quite a number of instances, however, condemnation was because of damage to the tins, presumably as a result of carelessness in handling. When nail holes are discovered in the top layer of tins in a case, there is no question about the charge of carelessness.



Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	960	tins
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	79	„
Tomatoes	..	..	..	..	..	78	„
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	47	„
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	44	„
Peas	..	..	..	..	..	36	„
Cream	..	..	..	..	..	6	„
Fruit Juice	..	..	..	..	..	5	„
Beans	..	..	..	..	..	3	„
Cat Food	..	..	..	..	..	3	„
Vegetable Salad	..	..	..	..	..	2	„
Carrots	..	..	..	..	..	2	„
Dog Food	..	..	..	..	..	1	tin
Soup	..	..	..	..	..	1	„
Spaghetti	..	..	..	..	..	1	„
Sauce	..	..	..	..	..	1	bottle
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	212	
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{3}{4}$	lb.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	stone
One jar of Fish							
3 jars of Fruit							

This district is not the Food and Drugs Authority, and sampling of food is carried out by the County Council. Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, within this district are detailed below.

#### List of Samples taken during the year 1953

##### Milk

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	31
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	36
Milk Accredited	..	..	..	4
Milk T.T.	..	..	..	5
Milk T.T. Certified	..	..	..	2
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	24

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Total 102

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Number of Samples taken	..	102
Number of Samples Genuine	..	97
Number of Samples Adulterated	..	5

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##### General Foods

Number of Samples taken	..	55
Number of Samples Genuine	..	54
Number of Samples Adulterated	..	1

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### CLASSIFICATION OF GENERAL FOODS

Flaked Beef Suet	Ground Almonds
Tea	Boracic Acid Powder B.P.
Pork Sausage (3 samples)	Lemon Curd (2 samples)
Malt Vinegar (3 samples)	Lemon Barley Water
Table Jellies	Strawberry Jam FFS (2 samples)
Fried Potato Chips	Pineapple in Syrup
Mickey Pops	Tinned Garden Peas
Ice Fruit Lollies	Pickled Walnuts
Baked Beans with Pork	Sun-up-Orange
Sausage and Tomato Sauce	Teacake Mixture
Self Raising Flour	Cocoa
Pressed Chawl	Peeled Tomatoes
Pressed Beef	Salted Almonds
Malted Milk	Chicken Spread
Cream of Tartar B.P.	Royal Game Soup
Custard Powder	Plum Pudding
Lemonade Powder Sweetened	Milk Pudding
Orange Juice	Currie Powder
Blackcurrant Jam FFS	Sulphur Tablets
Coconut Ice	Baking Powder
Milk Chocolate Sundae	Cut Peel
Ground Nutmeg	Cut Mixed Peel
Vita-Yeast	Ice Cream (2 samples)
Ground Rice	Whisky
Sweetened Cake Flour	

### Particulars of Adulterated Samples

Accredited Milk—7.3 % deficient in fat—	Cautioned
Accredited Milk—6.7 % deficient in fat—	Cautioned
Sterilised Milk—0.2 % of added water and 0.2 % deficient of solids-not-fat—	} Cautioned
Sterilised Milk—0.5 % of added water and 0.4 % deficient in solids-not-fat—	
Sterilised Milk—Trace of added water and 1.2 % deficient in solids-not-fat—	

### Pineapple in Syrup—Formal—contained

- A piece of cellophane type material.
- Coloured particles distributed throughout the sample of what appears to have been originally a layer of printed and other matter super-imposed on the cellophane type material.

*Explanation of Manufacturers accepted.*

In addition, 68 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these samples, 36 were submitted to the phenol-phthalein test and passed, 36 to the phosphatase test and passed, 12 to the turbidity test and passed, 43 to the methylene blue test of which 40 passed and 3 failed, and 12 were submitted for biological test for tuberculosis and all proved negative. Some samples of milk were, of course, submitted to more than one test. With regard to the three samples which failed to pass the methylene blue test, the laboratory drew attention to the high atmospheric temperature at the time (2nd July) as probably accounting to some extent for the failure. I fail to follow the reasoning here, as another 6 samples taken the same day all passed. If the methylene blue test can only be used in cold weather, the analysts should say so, and at the same time they should try to devise a satisfactory test for use in hot weather, which is the very time when a reliable test is most needed.

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Food premises in general received constant attention throughout the year. Small infringements of the bye-laws were quickly attended to when pointed out. At the same time it must be said that there is still too much carelessness and lack of interest on the part of some employees in such premises. Where the proprietor is on the spot, matters are generally very satisfactory, but where conditions are such that he cannot be present at certain times or in certain places, slap-dash methods are apt to prevail. The only cure, as I see it, is increased inspection and making an example of some one. How the increased inspection can be achieved with our present staff is a matter of some concern.

The number and description of the various types of food premises in the district are given below.

Restaurants	..	..	..	..	2
Residential Hotel		..	..	..	1
Works Canteens	..	..	..	..	3
School Kitchens		..	..	..	2
Preserved Food Manufacturers				..	7
Fried Fish Shops		..	..	..	12
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	21
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers			..	..	1



There was only one manufacturer of ice cream in the district during the year under review, and this business closed down towards the end of the summer. All other ice cream in the district was manufactured by firms outside and was sold pre-packed.

During the summer months 28 samples of ice cream were taken for analysis, most of them from our local manufacturer. A few samples were taken from shops selling pre-packed ice-cream as a routine measure. More samples would have been taken but for the great inconvenience of having to take the samples to the laboratory at Stafford. With only two inspectors, a whole day devoted to taking samples of ice cream can only be indulged in occasionally.

The result of the samples taken was as follows:—

Grade 1	..	..	22
Grade 2	..	..	4
Grade 3	..	..	2
Grade 4	..	..	0

When these results are compared with the results for 1952 the difference will be obvious.

1952	Grade 1	..	..	17
	Grade 2	..	..	24
	Grade 3	..	..	6
	Grade 4	..	..	13

If, as has been repeatedly said, good results can only be achieved by repeated inspection and advice to ice-cream dealers, then we feel that some of our labours have not been in vain.

During the year under review all public houses in the district were specially visited and particular attention paid to the means employed in washing glasses. Houses belonging to the large brewery companies were generally fairly satisfactory. There are adequate hot water supplies and there is detergent available. Just how often the detergent is actually used in a few places is a doubtful matter. It was significant that the bottle could not always be found at first. Sometimes the bottle was empty.

The smaller public houses, however, did not always use a detergent. Polishing the glasses with a cloth is still looked upon by some as a ritual and almost as an alternative to washing. However, every public house in the district was given a circular, prepared in the department, on the washing of glasses and other matters. The standard of hygiene generally is fairly high.

There is still the problem of the busy nights and what goes on then. If I were not so well-known in the district, it might be instructive to tour the public houses on a Saturday night. It will certainly be a job for a new inspector during the early weeks of his work. With regard to busy periods, one large public house has installed a

glass washing machine which appears to be satisfactory—at any rate the customers like to watch it working.

The following works were carried out during the year in food premises as a result of the service of notices.

Bakehouses limewashed .. .. .	4
Ceilings whitewashed .. .. .	5
Food premises cleansed .. .. .	7
Floors only cleansed .. .. .	13
Sinks provided .. .. .	2
Washing facilities provided .. .. .	1
W.C's. cleansed .. .. .	6
W.C's. provided .. .. .	3
Windows provided .. .. .	3
Yards cleansed .. .. .	8

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## PUBLIC CLEANSING

I have always regarded this subject as one of the most important in the department. It is one which affects every citizen personally and any drop in efficiency is immediately noticeable. I doubt if any other public service comes more prominently before the public eye. Moreover, it is an expensive service and the importance of combining economy with efficiency should be apparent. It is, therefore, unfortunate that I should not be permitted to attend the Annual Conference of the Institute of Public Cleansing save at my own expense and as part of my annual leave. This is the only conference which deals exclusively with the subject of public cleansing. It is there that the best brains of the service meet to pool their knowledge and experience and to make contacts which may be to the everlasting benefit not only of themselves but of the districts they serve.

In public cleansing the big question is cost. I give below the unit costs for Sedgley in comparison with certain average figures. These are taken from the Costing Returns submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the year ending 31st March, 1953. The following year's figures for Sedgley are not yet available.



	Weight per 1,000 population per day	Nett Cost per Ton		Nett Cost per 1,000 Population		Nett Cost per 1,000 Premises	
		Collection	Disposal	Collection	Disposal	Collection	Disposal
	Cwts.						
Sedgley (Mining Town) ..	15.2 (Estimated)	29/6	4/9	£409	£66	£1,463	£236
Urban District's Average..	19.9	22/8	2/2	£413	£40	£1,365	£132
Mining U.D's. Average ..	29.9	14/6	2/-	£401	£54	£1,358	£184
Average all Authorities ..	16.9	27/8	5/4	£427	£87	£1,396	£288
Average all Mining Towns	24.7	18/2	2/1	£412	£48	£1,363	£158

With regard to the figures in the above table, I suggest first of all that very little importance should be attached to the weight of refuse or the cost per ton. In Sedgley, as in many other districts, the weight of refuse is estimated. We have no means of weighing the refuse, and frankly, I see no point in proposing that a weigh-bridge be installed somewhere. The estimation of weight was done by counting the number of loads. We know the capacity of the vehicles and we hoped that by that method we should be somewhere near the right figure. It now appears that other districts have either over-estimated their tonnage or else we are far from the right figure. I can see no reason for Sedgley being less than average, but until a district weighs all its refuse, there is surely no point in even bothering to work out unit costs per ton.

When it comes to unit costs per 1,000 population, which is something which cannot be juggled with, we are on a surer basis. Here, the cost of refuse collection in Sedgley is pretty average with the rest of the country. The cost of disposal is rather higher than the average, as I think we should here ignore the figure of £87 for all authorities. After all, this latter figure includes the large cities who have special problems in the way of refuse disposal.

The question now arises, what do the residents of this district get for this average cost of refuse collection and rather above average cost of refuse disposal?

All dustbins in Sedgley are emptied weekly. The collection is on the same day each week at approximately the same time. The only time this varies is at the statutory holidays—Easter, Whit, August, and Christmas—six days in all. At these holidays no bins are emptied on the particular day or days on which the holiday falls, but must wait till the following week when the normal collection takes place. This means that after a holiday the men start off on their usual run for the particular day as if there had been no holiday. On the following Monday, however, if we take Easter as an example, there will be double the amount of refuse in that day's bins. This must be cleared that day, and the men know that. We are thus able to keep to our weekly collection year after year without being upset by holidays. It is unfortunate, of course, that those people who live in the streets which form Monday's run should have to experience a missed collection nearly every bank-holiday. We have few if any complaints on that score, however.

We have no labour troubles in the department, and through our bonus scheme neither sickness nor annual holidays can upset the weekly collection. Each team has basically one driver and four loaders and the number of bins they are required to empty is based on the number of bins in the district and on their standard rate of pay. If one man in the team is off, the remaining four men must

complete that days' work, but the number of bins is divided into four instead of five, with consequent higher payments to each man. If two men are off from the team, the remaining three men are still able to complete the work, although with greater effort and longer hours. The extra payment is an incentive to encourage them to do so.

There are three refuse teams, and Shelvoke and Drewery freighters are used—all post-war vehicles.

Three refuse tips were in use during the year. The tip at Holloway Street is still being used, but as it is nearly filled only a small amount of refuse from the adjoining part of the district is taken there to finally level it off. The tip on the Beacon Estate was completed during the year, in fact it took just under 12 months to fill the hole there. The bulk of the refuse disposal was then transferred to a tip at Humphrey Street, Lower Gornal, where we are now raising a piece of low lying ground to road level.

Disposal is by controlled tipping methods. The high cost of this section of our work is undoubtedly due to the fact that covering material has to be brought quite a distance. So far, I have found no easy way out of this problem.

The tips are regularly treated with gammexane dust and we had no trouble whatsoever from insect pests during the year. This was helpful as the Beacon Estate tip was right against the back gardens of council houses on that estate. During the year we were tipping there, no complaints were made, in spite of the fact that the tip was once set on fire.

The question of fire on the tips is our biggest worry. While I am aware that hot ashes, especially on the last load of the day, may be the cause of the trouble, I feel myself that all the fires we have had have been due to deliberate firing, either by children or youths. On two occasions, youths were actually seen setting the tip on fire. For the life of me, I cannot see the attraction in this sort of action. It isn't as if the tip blazes up to make a spectacle. Surely a stinking, smoky mass of burning rubbish can be attractive only to the mentally deranged.

The cost of putting out a fire is really frightening, yet it must be done. Extra men have to be drafted in to dig it out. It may take days to do so. Meanwhile, alternative arrangements have to be made for sending the refuse elsewhere.

Salvage during the year was a question of waste paper and kitchen waste. One vehicle was employed practically full time on this work. During the year 70 tons 4 cwts. of waste paper were sold for the return of £467 7s., and 165 tons 16 cwts. of kitchen waste were sold for £606 1s. 9d.

Trade refuse is not a matter of great importance in this district. The few works in the area of any size dispose of their own trade



refuse. As far as this local authority is concerned, trade refuse means the contents of bins at certain shops, and other small business premises. The list of such premises decreases each year. It only takes one such business to protest against the charge, and if the Council agrees with the submission of the trade in question, all similar businesses are removed from the list. In this way we have lost several classes of shops and all the public houses.

In the unsewered parts of the district, many of the houses have chemical closets. These are emptied and recharged by the department once or twice weekly according to requirements.

No trouble was experienced during the year with the replacement of dustbins. In all, 110 notices were sent to owners and were either complied with or the bins were supplied in default. No appeals were lodged. In addition, new dustbins were supplied to Council owned houses without notice. It can be said that very roughly, one third of the houses in the district are Council owned, one third are modern houses generally owner-occupied where new bins are provided without notice, and the other third consist of the older houses which require notices for replacement.

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## MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

### Rivers Pollution

No serious trouble was experienced during the year with the few streams which run through this district—not that the streams are perfectly clean, but that no complaints (with one exception) were made about them. Actually, there is far too much waste water from houses getting into them. In the unsewered parts of the district this is understandable, but none the less reprehensible. It would be possible to trace where the drainage from such cottages goes, but a much more serious problem arises from the waste water in other parts of the district which finds its way into the storm water sewers. This naturally gets into the streams and the task of tracing it all is a colossal one. The one exception mentioned above was a complaint of gas liquor in a stream. This caused us some concern as all the gas liquor produced at the local gas works is discharged to one of our four sewage disposal works. We felt that there might be overloading of this particular disposal plant in spite of the fact that the discharge of gas liquor is regulated and not sent down in large quantities. Several samples of the stream below the sewage disposal works were taken for analysis without any evidence of gas liquor, and the complaints ceased.

### Rodent Control

Rodent control is now becoming a routine measure, designed mainly to prevent rats breeding into large colonies, and in this we were successful. It would be impracticable, to say nothing of it being uneconomic, to kill every rat in the district.

The sewers were treated on two occasions during the year, showing each time a diminishing number of takes. Since the sewer treatments began some years ago, the estimated number of rats therein has steadily declined. In these sections of the sewers where we repeatedly find them, the cause is not far to seek. For example, the sewers in the vicinity of a certain butcher's premises are always found to be infested and in these same premises the workmen regard yard gully gratings as things which ought to be removed when swilling down takes place.

In the treatment of surface infestations, we found Warfarin a most successful poison, and almost complete reliance was placed on it throughout the year, resulting in a great saving of time.

I give below in tabular form a copy of the report submitted to the Ministry under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

## Report for 15 months ended 31st March, 1954

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business premises)	TOTAL
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	6,456	22	275	6,769
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March 1954 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, (c) otherwise <i>e.g.</i> , when visited primarily for some other purpose	(a) —	47	4	36	87
	(b) 16	—	18	42	76
	(c) —	103	—	54	157
III. Number of properties inspected (see section II) which were found to be infested by rats	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 10	38	4	25	77
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	9	—	11	20
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	10	47	4	36	97
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works ( <i>i.e.</i> Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out					



## **Insect Pests**

The English weather is one of our greatest allies in the field of insect control. A short spell of summer encourages them to appear, and just as they are settling down to really enjoy themselves, more typical weather sets in and most of them are either drowned or frozen to death.

Gammexane and DDT, together with other noxious products from the insect viewpoint, add to their tribulations. Again, the modern housewife, at least in this district, is no longer content to live with such unwelcome guests.

Throughout the year, therefore, we had no trouble with insects of any kind.

## **Smoke Abatement**

Nuisance from visible smoke is not a serious problem in this district, yet the cutting off of ultra-violet rays by the smoke pall from the adjoining industrial zone is very marked. Open-air workers will find that a day or two at the seaside will give them a tan which would take months to bring about in Sedgley.

Most of our locally produced smoke comes from the domestic chimneys, and attempts have been made to interest the Council in the burning of smokeless fuels in Council Houses and with success. It is hoped to try to create smokeless zones on future housing sites, besides improving the position in existing estates. As the Council own one third of the houses in the district, considerable improvement in the atmosphere is distinctly possible. The plan, however, is still in its infancy.

Nuisance from industrial chimneys amounts in total to only four premises. In the first of these, two Lancashire boilers which are causing some trouble are going to be replaced soon, but this improvements programme is causing less and less interest to be taken in the offending boilers. Another offending stack is, I am convinced, causing trouble merely through carelessness. A third cause of trouble happens to be in a proposed clearance area. We hope to get rid of the trouble by eventual demolition and meanwhile the smoke nuisance is actually one of our trump cards. The fourth and actually the one which causes the most complaints is, we hope, being cured by more suitable fuel and, more efficient boiler practice.

## **Shops Act**

There is little to report under this section as there are few shops of any size in the district. Situated, as we are, directly between Wolverhampton and Dudley with good bus services to either town, our residents seem to prefer shopping outside their own area except for everyday essentials.

Most of our shops are of the small general dealer type, the shop-keeper living on the premises and employing no assistants. If I have anything at all to say about such shops, it is that there are far too many of them, especially the very small variety where a few goods are sold from the front room of a house. It is extremely difficult to administer any shops legislation when you have a multitude of small shop premises like this. I feel that the keeping of a shop, especially where food stuffs are sold, should be a business run by a professional who knows his job, and not by an amateur who hopes thereby to augment his, or generally her, income.

No trouble was experienced during the year with hours of closing or half holidays, although I suspect that some of the small shops in back streets mentioned above open and close just when they please.

All shops were visited during the year with regard to the various requirements of the Shops Act, the Food and Drugs Act, and the Public Health Act. Any faults found were soon put right and I have pleasure in reporting that the shops in this district are generally clean. Some could be much more tidy, however, with obvious improvement to their business.

### **Caravans**

In this district the caravan problem is one of the nomadic type. Large stretches of uneven waste land in the southern part of the district form ideal places for the gypsy encampment.

In my last annual report some remarks I made as regards a solution of the problem caused something of a sensation in the local press. I do not retract one step from the views I then expressed, which were briefly that we must stop hounding these nomads from place to place.

This year I would ask the Sedgley residents to stop hounding me to move these nomads. Whatever trouble it may cause I wish to point out that these people are human beings, and they have rights like everyone else. The Public Health Act gives them the right to camp for so long in one spot. In actual fact, if they only knew their way round that Act, they could probably camp as long as they liked with impunity.

If the public do not like the present position it is up to them through their representatives to solve the problem in the only practical way, that is by the provision of proper camping facilities for these people.

In previous years I have reported on the attempts to provide a site for modern trailer caravans of the permanent residential type. I can only report now that this scheme has died a natural death through lack of interest.

## Factories

For the size of our district we have comparatively few factories and most of our residents work outside the area. All factories were visited during the year, several on more than one occasion. I append a copy of the report submitted under the Factories Act, showing that little serious trouble was experienced in this direction.

In one visit, however, we investigated a complaint of flies in a works' canteen, had a look at the boiler plant and had a discussion with the engineer, and then discovered that the sewage disposal plant of this particular works was not functioning properly owing to neglect. Sanitary conveniences are now becoming almost a minor point in factory inspection.



# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.**

## **Part 1.**

### **1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	10	20	4	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	55	140	29	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Total ..	65	160	33	—

### **2. Cases in which defects were found.**

PARTICULARS	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	8	8	—	2	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	3	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	13	13	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	7	7	—	—	—
Total ..	33	30	—	2	—

### **Part VIII of the Act.**

### **OUTWORK.**

	Section 110		
	Number of Out-Workers	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.) ..	76	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ..	14	—	—
Total ..	90	—	—

## Inspections

I give below a table showing the number of inspections carried out during the year under the various headings.

Ants .. .. .	23
Bakehouses .. .. .	53
Canteens .. .. .	106
Cesspools .. .. .	10
Dirty Houses .. .. .	29
Demolition of Houses .. .. .	108
Drainage .. .. .	57
Dustbins .. .. .	33
Factories .. .. .	160
Food Premises .. .. .	280
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	121
Houses under P.H.A. .. .. .	50
Housing Act .. .. .	115
Housing Survey .. .. .	240
Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	188
Infectious Disease .. .. .	39
Interviews on Site .. .. .	126
Letting of Council Houses .. .. .	568
Licensed Premises .. .. .	78
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	13
Meat Shops .. .. .	32
Piggeries .. .. .	4
Public Health Act (general inspections)	204
Public Cleansing .. .. .	257
Rats and Mice .. .. .	154
Salvage .. .. .	8
Shops Act.. .. .	18
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	132
Smoke Abatement .. .. .	55
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. .. .	37
Upper Gornal Redevelopment .. .. .	166
Lower Gornal Redevelopment .. .. .	76
Water Samples .. .. .	7
	<u>3,547</u>

## Staff

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the staff for their loyal help throughout the year. In my opinion, for the size of the district and the duties we are required to undertake, the department is understaffed. We always seem to be working at pressure with little time to give calm consideration to the many problems which confront us.

**DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON**

*(Sanitary Inspector)*













